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ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers --

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ANNOUNCER: Well, folks, our friends Ranger Jim Robbins and Bess Robbins are back at the Pine Cone Ranger Station today after a visit to the big city, where Jim was called in last week for a detail of work in the regional office. We understand they had a big time in the city, but I guess they're pretty glad to be back -- Well, let's see what's going on at the Ranger Station --

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, the old Pine Cone Ranger Station looks pretty good after all, doesn't it, Bess?

BESS: Yes, it does, Jim. It was nice in the city -- lots of excitement and everything -- but I was ready to come home.

(KNOCK ON DOOR)

BESS: There's someone at the door, Jim.

JIM: Somebody stopping by to welcome us back, I reckon -- Yeah, it's young Billy

BESS: Billy? Oh yes, the youngster from down in the village

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Yep. He wants to be a Ranger some day -- (OPENS DOOR) Come in, Billy

BILLY: (BOYISH VOICE) Thanks, Mr. Robbins -- Gee, Mr. Robbins, I'm sure glad you came back. I thought maybe you wasn't comin'.



JIM: Oh, yes, I had to come back and look after the old Pine Grove District.

BESS: Hello, Billy.

BILLY: Hello, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: Shouldn't you be in school this morning, Billy?

BILLY: Naw, there ain't no school today. Snow's too deep.

BESS: I see. -- Well, you'd better take off your jacket, Billy. It's warm here in the kitchen --- You're just in time to try some of the cookies I just baked.

BILLY: Am I?

BESS: Yes. Want to try some?

BILLY: Yeah -- Gee, thanks, Mrs. Robbins -- (WITH MOUTH FULL)

What did you do down in the city, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: What did I do down in the city? Oh, nothing much. Had a couple of conferences and after that they sat me down at a desk to work over the game and wildlife program. -- (CHUCKLES) That old desk chair got pretty hard before I left.

BESS: (LAUGHING) I guess it did, Jim.

BILLY: What's a wildlife program, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: Well, we have plans to take care of the deer and elk and all the other wildlife on our National Forests in this region, you see. -- and we have to work over the plans now and then to meet changing conditions,

BILLY: Oh.





JIM:

You see, what we're aiming at is to develop the game herds and all the other wildlife all over the region according to what each type of forest can support best, and maintain the wildlife as a permanent resource -- so it'll last forever, - see? In some places we've got to build up game herds where they've disappeared, and in some places we've got to keep 'em from getting too numerous so that they won't eat themselves out of house and home so to speak - that is so they won't get too numerous for the range to carry 'em and then starve to death. And then we've got to keep our wildlife going on a sustained yield basis, as we call it - just like our timber - find the best means of utilizing the interest, you might say, without depleting the principle. That's what we mean by conservation -- wise use -- You know, besides being mighty interesting and pretty to a lot of people and sort of a necessary part of the forest picture, wildlife in this country is an important economic resource. Hunting and fishing and trapping and the like brings millions of dollars of business and helps support a lot of communities.

BESS:

I'm afraid that's pretty deep for Billy, isn't it?

BILLY:

Naw, I get it all right. Gee, Mr. Robbins, you sure must know a lot about it, if they called you in to do that.

JIM:

Maybe I better wait and see how good a job I do before I start gettin' too proud about it, sonny.



BESS: It was because you know so much about wildlife that they called you in, Jim. You should be proud.

JIM: Well, there's still plenty I don't know. There was a whole stack of books and reports on my desk about diseases and parasites of deer alone - a lot of 'em I never knew about before. And there's a lot of things nobody knows yet - about food habits, and carrying capacity of different kinds of ranges, and so on, that it'll take a lot more research to find out. We've been working on this wildlife problem for thirty years now, and made a lot of progress, but we've got to keep plugging at it -- Hmm - Where D you s'pose -- Hmm --

BESS: What are you looking for, Jim -- a match?

JIM: Yeah. Thought I had some in my pocket.

BESS: Here are some matches -- here.

JIM: Thanks, -- Hmm. You can't scratch these on the bottom of your shoe, Bess.

BESS: Scratch it on the box. What do you think I handed you the box for?

JIM: How do you s'pose I'm going to keep that nice figure without havin' a chance to reach down to my feet now and then?  
(CHUCKLES) You'll have me gettin' like that fellow the ball about that tried to play golf. When he put the ball where he could see it, he couldn't hit it, and when he put the ball where he could hit it he couldn't see it.



BESS: (LAUGHING) Well, I wouldn't worry too much about what figure if you're going to keep going as strenuously as you did yesterday when you got back. I'm glad you're going to have a quiet day in the office today, Jim.

JIM: I wouldn't count too much on having a whole day here at the station.

BESS: Why - what else do you have to do?

JIM: Well, I dunno, but I'm kinda concerned about that elk herd of ours up on the Forest. With a heavy snow like this they're likely as not to get trapped in somewhere or other and starve to death, -- or if they don't get snowed in they'll be down getting into people's haystacks.

BILLY: Gee, Mr. Robbins, are you going to take a trip up and look for the elks?

JIM: Nope, won't need to, Billy. Jack Martin, the deputy warden over at Big Bend, saw 'em yesterday, and he's going to call me as soon as he gets back and let me know what he found out.

BILLY: (DISAPPOINTED) Aw shucks.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) You wanted to go along, eh?

BILLY: Yeah.

JIM: Well, I reckon I can make a pretty good guess as to what we'd've found out. I've had a couple of complaints from ranchers about elk getting into their haystacks, so I guess the critters are kinda hard put to it for food.

BESS: They must be, Jim, with all this snow.



JIM: Yep So I went ahead last night - I went ahead and arranged with some of the folks hereabouts that are interested in our elk herd to help us finance a little hay to take up to 'em.

BILLY: Gee, that's swell.

(PHONE RINGS)

JIM: Maybe that's Jack Martin now...(ANSWER RINGING PHONE)  
Hello. --- Yeah, hello, Jack, how did you make out? ---  
Hmm, just what I was expecting -- Where? Spring Hollow, eh? Yep -- we'll have to take some feed up to 'em right pronto -- Yeah, I've already arranged it -- Good - good idea. Yeah, we'll bring up the hay -- Yeah, we'll take care of it -- All right, Jack. So long. (HANGS UP)

BILLY: Whatcha gonna do, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: We're going to get a load of hay up to Archuleta's ranch - and we'll pick up a toboggan there and pack it in to the elk.

BILLY: Gee, kin I go too?

JIM: I reckon, Billy, if your folks don't mind.

BILLY: Hurray!

(PHONE RINGS)

BESS: There's the phone again, Jim.







JIM: Yep. (ANSWERING PHONE) Hello -- Yes, this is Jim Robbins -- oh - hello, Sam. Got any snow down your way? -- (CHUCKLES) That so? -- Huh, elk troubling you too? When did they get into your stacks? -- Uh huh. How about letting us have some more of it to take up to 'em? -- Whoa, now - no need to get riled up about it. (CHUCKLES) -- (CHUCKLES) Well, we'll be coming by for that hay anyhow, Sam. So long. (HANGS UP)

BESS: Who was that, Jim? Sam Riggs?

JIM: Yep. We're going to get some hay from him.

BESS: It sounded like he was objecting to the idea - from the conversation.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, Sam objects to everything on general principles. He's built that way - But he'll be darn glad to sell a little of his hay for cash money just the same.

BESS: Yes. I guess he will -- but I wish you weren't going out today, Jim. Can't you send some one?

JIM: I reckon I'd better go myself, Bess.

BESS: Oh, but Jim, you haven't had a day at home since you got back. Couldn't you wait 'till tomorrow?

JIM: It's a matter of starvation, Bess.

BESS: Oh, I know -- the poor things! But anyway you won't stay out any longer than you have to, will you, Jim? It's an awful day to be out.

JIM: Taint so bad, Bess. Kinda cold, that's all.



BESS: You'll be sure and get back for supper? You haven't been eating regular meals at all since you got back, and you know you didn't eat properly while you were down in the pit.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, now, maybe I didn't eat properly, but as far as I could tell, I ate plenty. -- Anyhow, it's feeding the elk and not us that we're concerned about now. We'll be headin' toward Sam Riggs' place first, Bess, if anyone calls.

BESS: Well, you're both going to have something hot before you go out in the cold. (GOING OFF) I'll have it ready in a jiffy.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) That's orders, Billy --

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

JIM: (COMING UP) Hello, Mr. Riggs.

SAM: Howdy.

JIM: This is my little pal, Billy, Sam. He wants to be a ranger some day.

SAM: Howdy, boy.

BILLY: Howdy, Mr. Riggs.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, Sam, what're you finding to grumble about today?

SAM: (CRABBY) Look a here now, Jim Robbins, I reckon you'd be grumblin' too if them elk got into your haystacks -- Come 'ere -- I want to show you where they et into my stacks -- look there -- see?



BILLY: Gee!!

JIM: Doesn't look like they ate so much.

SAM: They didn't, huh! Look here - see where they et in under, there. They et into the other stack over there, too.

JIM: (KIDDING) Well now, that's pretty bad, Sam - ain't it? I guess they've just about ruined you, huh?

SAM: Well, they ---

JIM: So you might as well let us have some more of your hay to take up to 'em.

SAM: Huh? Take it up to them elk?

JIM: Sure. -- You see, Sam, those elk must be pretty desperate if they're coming down this far, and Jack Martin's just been up on the range and he says some of the herd is snowed in up in Spring Hollow, starving to death --

SAM: Well, they oughta. Them critters is the worst pests in the county - eatin' up us ranchers' stacks all winter an' crowdin' our stock off the range all summer. Let 'em starve, that's what I say.

JIM: Look here now, Sam. I bet you've never seen an elk on your grazing allotment up on the range yet. Have you, now?

SAM: Well, not exactly, but --

JIM: No sir. Those elks range up in the high country in the summer. And anyhow we're handling the range up on the Forest so's there's plenty of room for the wild game and domestic stock both --

SAM: But look a here --



JIM: You ought to be darn glad you've got any range for your cattle at all. If we hadn't come along and started bringing the range back by regulating the grazing, there wouldn't be enough feed left up in those hills right now to support a pocket gopher.

SAM: Yeah, that's right, but jest the same, them critters get into my stacks an'

JIM: I know, Sam. The trouble is we haven't got adequate winter range for 'em on the National Forest. Come a heavy snow like this and they're likely to starve to death. You see, Sam, in our game management plans for the Forest, we're trying to protect our elk herd and take care of 'em so's they won't die out, and at the same time keep the herd from getting so large there won't be enough range for 'em. Lack of winter range is our worst problem.

SAM: Well, I could get along without them critters on the Forest altogether. Let 'em starve, that's what I say.

JIM: Wait a minute now. You know well enough, Sam, that the elk herd of ours is one of the big attractions of our Forest. I reckon the extra tourist business and sportsmen and all, that it brings to this section is more than enough to pay for a little bit of hay that they might eat out of your stacks. (CHUCKLES) It's lucky I know you as well as I do, Sam. With all the grumblin' and crabbin' you do, if I didn't know you better, I wouldn't know you were the kind of a fellow what'd give his right arm before he's stand by and let any critters starve to death -- two-legged or four-legged --





SAM: Well -- how much hay are you needin', Jim?

BILLY: That's the stuff, Mr. Riggs -- 'n I'll bet those elk'll be happy.

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER: And so the elk on the Pine Cone District will get their dinner -- and we'll see you again next Friday -- Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers is presented by the National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

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